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**Troops fire in the air**  
TUNIS, March 16 (R). — Troops fired in the air today a few hours after Por-ry leaders said they would use force to keep the peace in the co-campaign.  
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# JORDAN TIMES

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورن تائمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

## Mauritania will defend itself

TUNIS, March 16, (R). — Mauritania does not want a war over the Western Sahara but it will defend itself if Algeria forces war on it, Mauritanian Culture Minister Mr. Ahmadou Ould Tolba said here today.  
Asked about the possibility of mediation, the Minister said his country would reject a compromise which called on Mauritania to "re-nounce part of its territory."

Number 119

AMMAN, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1976 — RABTE AWAL 16, 1396 A.H.

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Mr Reagan's campaign orga-

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their man faces virtually certa-

in defeat in Illinois, have pin-



CHEERS. — His Majesty King Hussein and Japanese Emperor Hirohito toast each other at a banquet given by the King and Queen Ailya at the guest house in Tokyo Monday night.

## King Hussein stops off in Singapore on his way home

SINGAPORE, March 16, (Agencies). — His Majesty King Hussein arrived here today for a 24-hour stay on his way home from Tokyo.

A government spokesman said the King was making an informal overnight stopover during which he would meet President Benjamin Sheares.

The King, who is accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Ailya and a 17-member entourage, leaves here tomorrow afternoon.

King Hussein and Queen Ailya tonight attended a dinner given by President Sheares which was also attended by Prime Minister Lee.

## Lebanon looks to Syria for way out

BEIRUT, March 16 (Agencies). — Further Syrian mediation was awaited as stalemate settled today on the confrontation between General Aziz Ahdab, Lebanon's new self-proclaimed provisional military governor, and President Suleiman Franjeh, who refuses to resign.

Columns from the regular army and the breakaway "Army of Arab Lebanon," which united yesterday, remained poised several miles from Mr. Franjeh's palace in the south east Beirut suburb of Baabda — reportedly at Palestinian insistence — as a trek to Damascus gathered momentum.

Today's visitors there included Yasser Arafat and Zuheir Muhsein, leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the key Syrian-backed Saika Palestinian group, and a representative of the breakaway army, which has leftist backing.

They followed the visits by the Shi'i Moslem leader, Imam Mussa Sadr, and two senior

members of the right-wing Phalangist Party. Observers said Syrian Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam was meanwhile expected back here any time.

The U.S. government has been in close touch with countries neighbouring Lebanon, to check that "there would be no unilateral military action by any outside power there, State Department spokesman, Robert Funseth said in Washington today, in a veiled allusion to the possibility of Israeli interven-

tion. About 900 prisoners were released in attacks on two Lebanese prisons today, in what observers said was apparently a "war of the prisons" involving militias controlled by both right and left-wingers.

Amid new fears of violence as the country's political crisis deepened, 200 of the prisoners were set free this morning after 400 armed men attacked the Roumieh prison in a mountainous central area controlled by rightist Phalangist militia, informed sources said.

About 200 other men were left in the prison and there were fears of further attack.

The other 700 prisoners set free were at the huge "Sands" prison in western Beirut, after an armed assault later.

The attackers there were reported to have encountered the little resistance, though there was heavy firing outside the prison.

Informed sources said about



ATTACK THREAT. — Soldiers of the "Lebanese Arab Army," with one of their leaders Lt. Yacoub Daher (with binoculars) at Khelha checkpoint late Monday when he threatened to attack the presidential palace. The attack was postponed.

15 people had been killed and 20 wounded in clashes yesterday in the key seafont hotel district. Kidnappings also continued.

Meanwhile, an isolated Mr. Franjeh continued talks today at Baabda, after

## Arab League condemns Israel, lauds EEC ties

CAIRO, March 15 (R). — The Arab League Council tonight condemned alleged Israeli violations of Moslem holy shrines in the occupied West Bank.

The Arab foreign ministers also condemned Israeli measures which they said were aimed at changing the historic and demographic features in the occupied territories.

They expressed their full support for current protests in the West Bank in the face of Israeli "violence and oppression."

Arab League Secretary-General Mahmoud Riad told the council of League efforts to solve the Lebanese crisis and the dispute over Western Sahara.

Noted absentees were Algerian Foreign Minister Abdel Aziz Bouteflika, Syrian Foreign Minister Abdel Halim Khaddam and Chairman of the Political Department of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Farouk Kaddoumi. The

(Continued on page 6)

## Ortoli expects no EEC Israel office

JERUSALEM, March 15, (R). — The president of the Commission of the European Economic Community, M. Francois Xavier Ortoli, today held separate talks with government leaders and had a two-hour working session with Foreign Minister Yigal Allon.

M. Ortoli met Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz, Commerce and Industry Minister Haim Bar Lev and lunched with Defence Minister Shimon Peres.

The visitor, on a tour of Israel with his wife, is reported to have told his hosts there was little likelihood of the EEC opening an information office in Israel, as its members had shown little interest in such an office here.



OPPRESSION OF OCCUPATION. — Israeli occupation soldiers on patrol in the occupied Arab City of Ramallah where violent demonstrations took place on Monday. The Israeli authorities declared curfew in other occupied West Bank cities in an effort to quench the Arab resistance there. (AP wirephoto).

## Israeli police use tear gas to break up Jerusalem demonstrations

OCCUPIED, JERUSALEM, March 16, (Agencies). — Arab high school students today poured through the streets of east Jerusalem for the second day running hurling stones at police.

Israeli police fired tear gas canisters at the students to break up the demonstrations.

The Arab students gathered at Al-Haram Al-Sharif, stoned police, then raced through the narrow streets of the ancient city shouting anti-Israeli slogans and urging store keepers to shut their shops.

Unrest on the Israeli-occupied West Bank reached a new peak yesterday, forcing Israeli authorities to impose curfews on the towns of Ramallah and El-Bireh.

Schools in Bethlehem, Jericho and Beit Sahur remained closed today as pupils boycotted classes.

West Bank Arabs have been protesting for the past month over a number of grievances, including a court ruling in January that Jews be allowed to pray in Al-Haram Al-Sharif wh-

ich houses Al Aqsa Mosque one of Islam's most sacred shrines. Defence Minister Shimon Peres today told the mayors of three West Bank towns that Israel will take all necessary measures to halt the disturbances of the past few weeks.

Mr Peres, who had summoned (Continued on page 6)

## Callaghan good bet as successor

## Harold Wilson rocks Britain with surprise resignation

LONDON, March 16, (AFP). — British Prime Minister Harold Wilson stunned the country today with a surprise resignation.

Sources close to him said that he would return to Westminster as an ordinary member of parliament.

Mr Wilson, 60, was Britain's longest serving peacetime premier in this century.

His resignation sent sterling plunging on the London market and around Europe. The London stock exchange dived.

In a press statement from his office at 10, Downing Street, Mr Wilson said he had decided to stand down to give others

the chance to lead the party.

He gave four reasons for his decision. He said he had been party leader for 13 "exciting and turbulent years", nearly eight of them as prime minister, and in 31 years in parliament he had been on the front benches nearly 30 of them.

To have led four administrations was "a privilege conferred on very few men," he said.

Second, a leadership election in the Labour Party would do good in showing the country the wealth of talent in its ranks.

Third, it was now the moment for a successor to be in the post to impose his or her style and work out a strategy for the

remaining years of the present parliament.

Finally, he said he believed it was time for a fresh mind to approach the problems of government in order to avoid the danger of falling back on old courses of action.

He went on: "I want to make it quite clear, with the agreement of all my cabinet colleagues, that these reasons represent the total explanation of my decision."

"There are no impending problems or difficulties—economic or political which are not known to the cabinet, which are not known to the country and which are not already the

subject of the political discussions of our times."

The 60-year-old Yorkshire-born parliamentarian succeeded to the leadership of the Labour Party in 1963 on the death of Hugh Gaitskell.

Opposition Conservative Party leader Margaret Thatcher called for general elections following the decision by Mr Wilson to resign.

Mr Thatcher told the House of Commons that the best way to eliminate uncertainty created by Mr Wilson's decision was to hold new general elections. Mr Wilson rejected the call.

Mr Wilson, drove alone to (Continued on page 6)

## "Law of the Sea" conference opens

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Mar. 16 (AFP). — The U.N. Conference on the Law of the Sea unceremoniously got down to over seven weeks of committee work here today hoping that a draft convention meeting present needs will be ready for signing in Caracas by the year's end.

U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim warned the opening meeting of the fourth session of the conference that a unique opportunity to ensure that the riches of the oceans would benefit all mankind would be wasted if the parley failed to establish a Law of the Sea "that will be respected by all."

The first committee met to discuss the establishment of an international Seabed Authority to manage and police the exploitation of ocean bed resources.

A second committee is concerned with the "Limits of National Jurisdiction" — a subject that covers territorial limits and the creation of proposed 200-mile economic zones.

Committee three is faced with less controversial questions under the general heading "Preservation of the Marine Environment, Scientific Research and Transfer of Technology."

Printed and Published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
 Chief Editor: MOHAMAD AMAD  
 HEAD OFFICE: Jordan Press Foundation  
 University Road, Amman  
 Tel. 67171-4 Cable: Jortimes  
 SUBSCRIPTION: In Jordan — J.D. 20  
 Other Countries: J.D. 20 plus postage

## Market realities

The Governor of the Jordan Central Bank, Mr. Sa'id Nabulsi, reported Monday that the Council of Ministers will shortly review draft legislation to establish a stock market in Amman. This is a major development for Jordan, and is worthy of close attention by the public.

The establishment of a Jordanian stock market will do several things: create a public, easily accessible outlet for any citizen who has some money he or she wishes to invest; create a mechanism by which medium and large-size Jordanian companies can secure substantial sums of money required for their capital investments; offer a new outlet for investment that would direct private funds into productive projects, whether these would be the establishment of new businesses or the expansion of existing ones; draw some of the excess money now going into speculative real estate and land investments and redirect it into job-creating, income-earning and tax-generating schemes; and, not incidentally, help create those financial structures in Jordan that are the hard prerequisites of any city that hopes to play a regional commercial and financial role.

To talk of Amman today as a business or banking centre that can command regional clout à la Beirut is nonsense. Amman has neither the depth nor the breadth — let alone the hotel rooms and telephone lines — to flaunt its commercial qualities.

What it does have, however, is the vast potential, the national economic depth in manufacturing and industrial capacity, the comprehensive, systematic and realistic state planning mechanisms, the requisite labour and demographic resources, the balanced agricultural, manufacturing and services sectors of the economy and the financial resources — both domestic and foreign — to proceed on a course that would generate the institutions requisite for a comprehensive commercial centre.

If one scans the Jordanian financial landscape, one sees dynamic young trees in a very fertile soil. These trees are the hundreds of Jordanian (and foreign) enterprises, the healthy commercial banks, the handful of longer term domestic credit institutions, and the vibrant government bonds market. A stock market fits in here like a lovely little glove.

The stock market is the kind of thing the city needs to fill out its commercial contours. The Central Bank has already shown its readiness to step into the domestic marketplace and wave its regulatory finger when it deems this necessary — which it is now doing to control inflation and sustain economic growth. And the state authorities have similarly shown themselves ready and willing to offer the realistic incentives to attract international businesses to Amman. This — with a stock market, and a host of other institutions — is what makes a financial centre.

## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Under the heading "Gaining Friends", Al Ra'i said Tuesday that with King Hussein's visit to Japan, Jordan and the Arab countries have won a powerful Asiatic friend, who confined himself till now to exercising an economic-moral influence at the highest international level...

Official speeches exchanged between the King and the Japanese leaders indicated an increasing approach by Tokyo towards the Arab stand. In his interviews with the Japanese press, King Hussein underlined the deep Arab appreciation of Japan's latest stand in the UN Security Council's vote on Palestinian rights, as well as on Japan's agreement on the opening of a Palestine Liberation Organization office in Tokyo, Al Ra'i said.

Under the heading "The Outcome of the Royal Trip", Al Shaab, taking up the same theme, said the Jordanian-Japanese communique indicated once more King Hussein's unceasing efforts to project the national and pan-Arab picture in international forums. On the national level, the paper continued, the communique commended Jordan's internal development achievements, particularly the intention to make Jordan a manufacturing and industrial centre of the Arab World.

On the current Lebanese deadlock, Ad Dustour said Tuesday that General Aoun had talked to Ad Dustour and explained the aims of his military movement, which he described as 'corrective'. The paper deemed that several basic points in

his statement deserve recording, and might constitute a solution to the Lebanese entanglement...

Gen. Al Ahdab, the paper said, does not consider movement as a coup d'état against the Government, but a means to pressure the politicians and the political parties to find an outlet to the crisis which has exhausted Lebanon for more than ten months. Al Ahdab also still considers the Lebanese army as one whole unit, and is ready to hand over the command to the army commander, so that the later many complete the role begun by the movement. However, Ad Dustour continued, the most important point in Al Ahdab's statements is his concern over the constitutional legitimacy, and that he wanted the army to move and consummate the national aims through parliament.

"This is a unique situation in the history of military movements, and it conforms with the peculiar conditions in Lebanon," the paper observed. There is no doubt, said Ad Dustour, that until this moment, the Lebanese army has behaved wisely and with self-restraint to give President Frangieh the chance of an honourable withdrawal... It seems that the President has no other alternative but to step down; he has to choose between making his Arab compatriots re-member him as the man who saved Lebanon from a real catastrophe, or the man who left Lebanon a wreckage of flame and smoke," the paper concluded.



## Iraq, Jordan economic activity to increase

AMMAN. — An Iraqi economic delegation headed by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Trade Mahdi Obaidi, arrives here Wednesday for talks with Jordanian officials to consolidate economic cooperation between the two countries and increase trade exchange in implementation of the various economic and commercial agreements which have recently been concluded. Official talks will start Tuesday morning at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

The talks, sources at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce said, will most probably result in an increase of the share of the Iraqi Trade Centre in Amman and its Jordanian counterpart in Baghdad to one million dinars each per year.

Jordanian exports to Iraq will undoubtedly increase in quantity and diversity following the talks, sources added.

At present, sources said, economic relations between the two countries are at their peak especially after the agreement which Mr. Taha Jazrawi, a member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Council, signed here late last year, and according to which, the Iraqi government had pledged financial and economic assistance to Jordan to enable it to implement various development projects.

The accord, sources continued, stipulates that Iraq will participate in the capitals of the

fertilisers and potash companies. It will also provide Jordan with long term loans carrying no interest for the establishment of joint ventures.

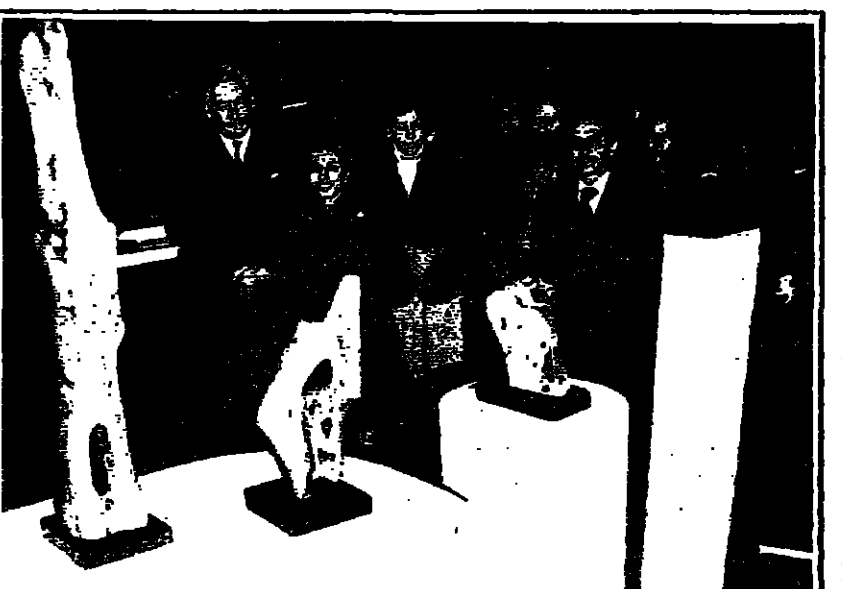
Iraq also will help to expand the port of Aqaba and open a new road between Baghdad and Aqaba, thus shortening the distance between the two cities by 200 kms.

A second agreement signed earlier last year during the visit of a Jordanian economic delegation headed by the Undersecretary of the Ministry of In-

## Committee to improve passenger handling

AMMAN. — A special committee has been set up by the Prime Minister to improve procedures and measures to be adopted at Amman airport to facilitate passenger handling. The committee is also expected to discuss ways of making it easier for friends of passengers to greet new arrivals, and to see off those departing.

The committee composed of the Undersecretaries of the Ministries of Finance, Tourism and Health, the Director General of the Civil Aviation Department, and a delegate from Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines, will hold its first meeting on March 31 at the Alia Training Institute.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath at the opening ceremony of the art exhibit by the Egyptian artist Khairy Asaad at the British Council Monday, which was organised by the Department of Culture and Arts. Seen to her left is Mr. Salah Abouzeid the Minister of Information and Culture.

## Measures adopted to Aqaba port strain

AMMAN. — Several measures were adopted Tuesday by the Ministry of Transport to offset the intense activity which the port of Aqaba is currently witnessing owing to the economic boom caused by the Five Year Development Plan.

To enable a speedy offloading of ships, the import of cement via Aqaba has been barred if not packed or put in special containers. The same applies to wood which should be imported in bundles and for which the prior approval of the port authorities is required.

Besides the above measures the government had previously adopted others to help meet the increasing port activity.

Among these: the recommendations that new areas of lands adjoining the Aqaba port be bought for the purpose of storage; restrictions on the movement of Jordanian and Arab owned vehicles of transport have been lifted on condition that these vehicles work under the supervision of the Jordanian Transport Federation, priority was given to offloading ships of low tonnage, besides

hiring five cranes in private sector to process, customs and transport vehicle were provided, besides providing for Jordanian owned vehicles who have been in neighbouring countries to reroute work in Jordan.

The Minister of Transport Mahmoud Hawamd also requested from the Planning Council the sum of \$1 million to the Aqaba Port for the implementation of the agreement concluded between the Ministry and several multinational firms to enlarge the port.

The Ministry's plan to build four new piers res long each. Work completed in 1978.

This plan also aims at increasing the capacity of the port, equipping the Corporation with the machinery needed, completing the establishment of the Aqaba Free Zone to handle merchandise in transit.

## Decree dissolves NAU and JNAU

AMMAN. — A Royal Decree was issued approving the dissolution of the National Union of Authors and Journalists (NAU) and the Jordanian National Union of Authors and Journalists (JNAU).

A second decree was issued approving the dissolution of the Scientific Research Council of the first of March, which transferred its property to the National Documentation Centre.

## NATIONAL BRIEF

● AMMAN. — The Culture and Information Minister Abu Zeid received Italian Ambassador.

● AMMAN. — The Labour Issam Ajlout Tuesday the Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan.

● AMMAN. — The Industrial Education Ministry of Education Otwan will participate in the Vocational Studies organised by UNESCO held in Kuwait, March 17-21.

● AMMAN. — The Minister's press secretary Qus has been in a three week visit beginning in July. He will look over information institutions.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Viceroy is seen during his visit Monday to the Fifth Armoured Brigade Command, after which he carried out an inspection tour at the training field where the brigade is carrying out its training programme. (JNA photo).

## Workers' elections urged by April 20 S. Arabia-Jordan to update economic ties

AMMAN. — The Executive committee of the Workers Federation requested in its Monday meeting held at its headquarters here that the various workers unions should hold elections to their councils not later than April 20, to enable them to nominate their representatives to the Central Council of the Workers Federation which shall convene immediately afterwards to elect the Federation's new president, vice president and members.

The April 20 deadline has been set, sources at the Workers Federation said, to make sure that by May 1, which coincides with International Workers Day, the new Council of the Federation will be appointed.

AMMAN. — Contacts are underway between the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and the Saudi Ministry of Economy to update the commercial and economic agreement between the two countries, said the Undersecretary of the above Ministry Dr. Hashem Dabbas. This updating has been made necessary following the price increases which have taken place, as well as new changes in the economic and commercial fields.

## What's Going On

Mime performance by Mr. Adam Darius, 5:00 p.m., Jebel Luweibdeh, Culture and Arts Theatre.

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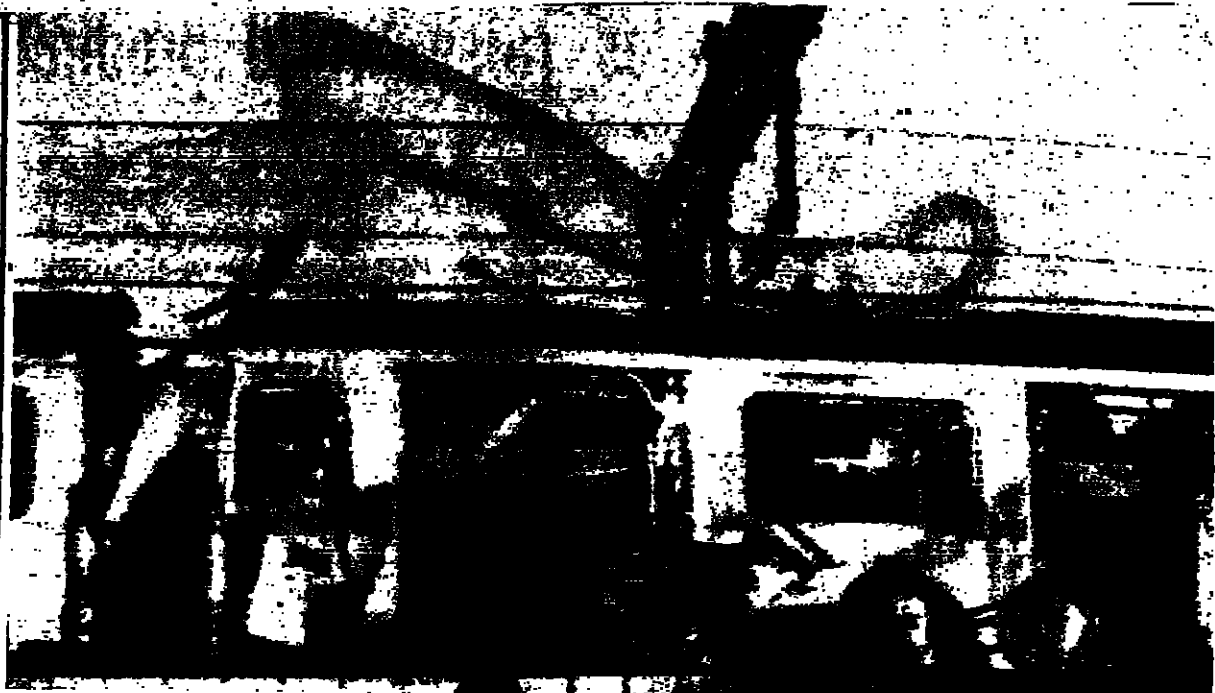
THE ARABIC CLASS FOR BEGINNERS will start on the 17th of March:

- 1) 4 sessions a week, Sundays and Wednesday 5:30 — 7 p.m.
- 2) The course will take 3 months.
- 3) The fees are JD 15.- for the whole course.

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TERROR ON THE TRAIN. — Police in East London search through wreckage, following an explosion on one of London's subway carriages. One person was killed and several reported injured. (AP wirephoto).

## Syria moves for further U.N. action on Palestine

UNITED NATIONS, March 16, (R). — Syria said today that if the Security Council, because of "abuse" of the veto, failed to take steps to guarantee a programme for implementation of Palestinian rights, the General Assembly should assume the responsibility.

Syrian Representative, Mr. Waffak Allaf also suggested the possibility of creating a U.N. council for Palestine, along the lines of the council for Namibia (South West Africa).

Mr. Allaf was addressing the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, a new 20-member U.N. body established under an Assembly resolution adopted last November.

The Committee is charged with recommending a programme of implementation designed to enable the Palestinian people to exercise such rights as

self-determination, national independence and sovereignty.

Mr. Allaf, who has observer status in the Committee said it should recommend that the Security Council guarantee the carrying out of the proposed programme.

In the not unlikely event of obstruction due to abuse of the veto power, the committee should recommend that the Assembly itself carry out its responsibilities in the matter, he added.

He also said the U.N. should consider the possibility of handling the situation arising from Israel's "illegal occupation" of Palestinian territory in the same way it was dealing with South Africa's occupation of

Namibia.

In his address, Mr. Allaf said that to enable the People of Palestine to regain national independence and sovereignty, it was indispensable to liberate its territory from alien occupation and end the exodus of Palestinian refugees.

The Syrian representative said that Israel's admission to the U.N. in 1949 had been conditional on its implementation of the charter and of earlier resolutions.

Israel's persistence in refusing to allow the Palestinian refugees to return would be a clear violation of that condition and "would consequently make necessary the reconsideration of this matter," he said.

## Army takeover in Lebanon: a "constitutional coup"?

BEIRUT, March 16, (R). — The so far inconclusive takeover attempt by military men in Lebanon has been anything but a standard coup d'etat.

Six days after the attempt to oust him started, President Sleiman Franjeh is still precariously in office, despite a conditional pledge to step down.

The usual coup formula involves a small and secretive group of men, backed by troops, quickly seizing key points, such as radio stations and any centres of possible resistance, sealing off the country to prevent foreign intervention and replacing the head of state before the populace realises what has happened.

But when he launched his "corrective movement" here last Thursday, General Aziz Al-Ahdab informed the nation in advance by television, left the president and his supporters in peace and stayed in his headquarters.

His military backing was uncertain, and Mr. Franjeh's picture hung on the office wall behind him. He did not nominate a successor to the president.

His seizure of one radio station merely prompted his opponents to seize other transmitters and Beirut's airwaves have become a propaganda free-for-all.

The city's airport halted operations only briefly and Syrian forces were able to enter the country without resistance to take a firm hand in Lebanon's protracted crisis just when it looked as if the takeover attempt was about to reach a military climax.

The situation has had elements of farce. The leader of the "corrective movement", sitting in his ornate stuccoed head-quarters, received an endless stream of aides and foreign journalists and broadcast a series of demands for a new president to be elected.

Some 10 kilometres away, the head of state he was supposed to be ousting sat in his palace, quietly ignoring the general and refusing to budge.

The general insists that his movement is not a coup and his tactics bear him out.

The movement, rather than mounting the usual swift takeover effort heavy with the threat of force, lost momentum as the days dragged by, with Mr. Franjeh silently defying it.

The rebellion's leadership became dissipated between parliament, army mutineers and a

motley array of leftwing gunmen out for the president's blood, until Syria moved in powerfully to freeze the situation.

General Ahdab brought in the politicians of Lebanon's 99-seat parliament to help him unseat Mr. Franjeh last weekend. More than 70 of them signed a petition calling on the head of state to go.

He did no such thing.

Them came the rag-tag band of army mutineers under the nominal leadership of Lieutenant Ahmed Al-Khatib. Yesterday they began a two-pronged drive on the presidential palace while, further confusing the situation, 30 Lebanese army commando officers loyal to General Ahdab also threatened to force Mr. Franjeh out at gunpoint.

But then Syria applied strong pressure to ward off the attack while Syrian leaders tried to reach a compromise with political leaders in Lebanon. The army commandos and leftist gunmen called off their planned moves against the president.

On the southern approaches to Beirut, pro-Syrian Palestinian commandos (Saika) were dug in within an array of anti-tank weapons to halt a rebel armoured column heading for the presidential palace from southern Lebanon.

The Syrian moves were apparently aimed at preventing

## Faces strong communist attack on timing of move D'Estaing in trouble following French withdrawal from snake

PARIS, March 16, (Agencies) — The prestige of President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing received twin blows yesterday with the withdrawal of the franc from the European joint currency float scheme and the victory of the left in the second round of cantonal elections.

As the franc fell against the dollar and the mark, the Elysee presidential palace kept silent about the decision to quit the snake currency system which binds the stronger West European currencies together in a concerted float against the dollar.

But the fact that France has now been forced to leave the snake for the second time was seen here as denting the president's economic reputation.

The franc first left the snake in January 1974, when Mr. Giscard d'Estaing was Finance Minister.

As president, he took it back into the system last May. His decision, which was opposed by some senior advisers, was seen as an act of faith in European monetary union and in effort to equate the franc with the mark.

Finance Minister Jean-Pierre Fourcade clearly feels that the free floating pound and lira, whose plunge sparked off the run on the franc, are to blame for France's embarrassing policy turn-around.

But monetary experts con-

sider there were more fundamental reasons for last week's pressure on the franc. They pointed to France's price rise last year of nearly 10 per cent compared to West Germany's six per cent.

French prices are still tending to move ahead too fast and export prospects look dim in comparison to West Germany, where economic recovery is apparently well under way, they said.

Mr. Fourcade's announcement came soon after the end of voting in the second and decisive round of the French cantonal elections which gave the left-wing opposition a major victory.

Spearheaded by the increasingly powerful Socialist Party, the left took about 930 of the 1,863 seats at stake.

Mr. Giscard d'Estaing did not comment on the vote. But some of his supporters admitted that they saw it as a warning against the government's economic policies.

However, government supporters are looking for tensions between the socialists and communists to spoil the dynamism of the left's advance.

The French Communist Party meanwhile charged that President d'Estaing had deliberately put off action to check speculation against the French franc until after Sunday's cantonal elections in France.

In a statement, the party said the president had held off his decision to float the franc, which it said "amounts in fact to devaluing our currency", in order "not to harm the candidates of the (government) majority" in the elections.

"The government has thus lost a considerable amount of France's foreign currency reserves," the statement said. This was "scandalous" and demonstrated "the failure" of the president's economic policy.

The Communist Party statement warned Frenchmen against believing the argument that this "devaluation" would help reduce unemployment. On the contrary "it means increased difficulties for the workers and for the national economy," the statement said.

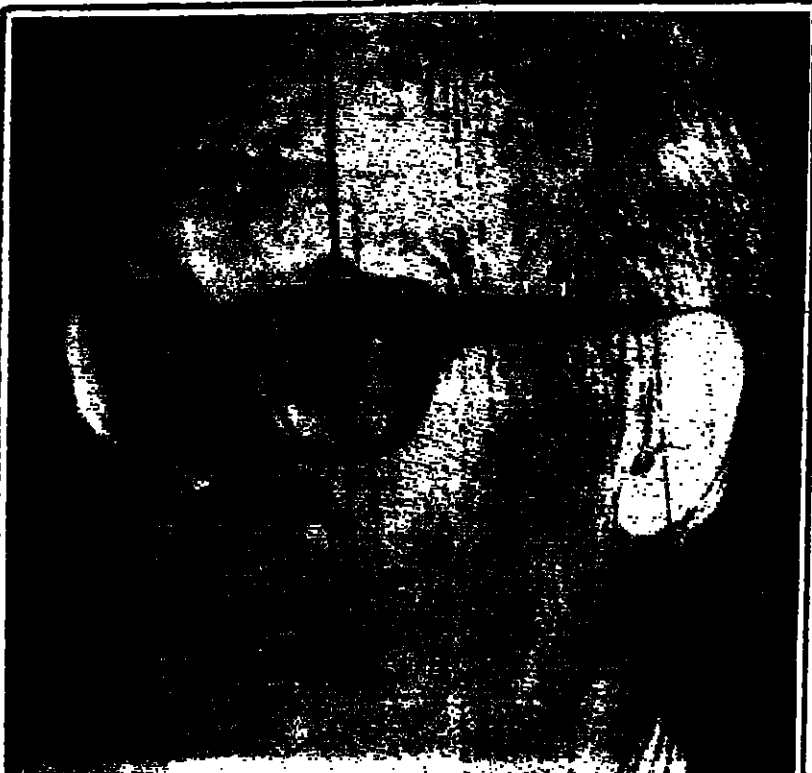
The French employers organisation (CNPF) and other professional organisations reacted with mixed feelings to the suspension of the franc's participation in the European snake.

The CNPF said it hoped the floating would not last long and recognised that the government's decision was "no doubt inevitable" in the light of "the absence of sufficient solidarity on the part of our partners" in the Rambouillet and Jamaica monetary agreements.

This was a reference to the six-nation summit at Rambouillet last November at which the United States, Japan and four leading European countries agreed on closer central bank co-operation to fight "erratic" currency fluctuations, and the agreement on monetary reform concluded last January at Jamaica.

The FNSEA, the biggest French farm organisation, said it "deplores" the government's move. The farmers had been "deceived once more," the federation said in a reference to the decisions on common farm price increases reached by the Common Market countries barely ten days ago.

In French business and industry circles the feeling was that the government's move would clarify the position of the franc, which they said had been artificially overvalued. But they also feared that price increases would result at home.



NEW POST. — Mr. A. J. Wilton the newly approved British Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. The picture was taken Monday while Mr. Wilton was leaving the Ministry of Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. (AP wirephoto).

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## China suspends dealings in French franc

PEKING, March 16 (AFP). — The People's Bank of China today confirmed that it had suspended all trade dealings in French francs following the franc's withdrawal from the European monetary snake and its subsequent drop in relation to other currencies.

The Chinese press reacted with unusual speed yesterday to the French government's decision to leave the joint float.

New China News Agency said the decision was an "indication of the aggravation of the western monetary crisis."

The agency recalled that in January 1974 "when the French economy went from bad to worse" the franc was pulled out of the joint float of European currencies and did not rejoin until July, 1975.

Since the beginning of this year the west European currency markets have been in turmoil and chaos," the agency commented recalling the difficulties already being encountered by the pound and the Italian lire.

The agency added that henceforth the "strong currencies" such as the West German mark, the Swedish crown, the Dutch guilder and the Swiss franc were targets for the speculators and the western monetary markets were becoming "even more turbulent and unstable."

In another article the agency said that western Europe was sinking deeper into its economic crisis and cited a recent United Nations report which, it said, showed the weakness of industrial production, record increases in the cost of living and rising unemployment in western Europe last year.

## Nepal signs economic agreement with Japan

KATHMANDU, March 16 AFP. — Japan signed an agreement here today granting a ten million US dollars long-term loan to Nepal's Kulekhani hydro-electric power project. The loan will carry an annual rate of interest of 2.25 per cent and the repayment period will be 20 years after a grace period on ten years.

The amount will be used for the purchase of mechanical equipment & a commission switch board facility for the project.

This loan is being provided through the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan (OECF). A separate agreement between the Nepalese government and OECF was signed in Tokyo today.

The hydro-electric project, designed to meet power demands in the central development region including Kathmandu will provide 60,000 kilowatts of energy.

The project is estimated to cost \$68 million.

Nepal has signed separate agreements with the International Development Agency (IDA) for a \$26 million loan, the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Economic Development for \$17.5 million and the United Nations Development Project for three million dollars.



GALE VICTIM. — The Greek ship "Olympic Bravery" is seen after it was split in half by a gale which swept through the French Brittany Peninsula Sunday. The tanker was abandoned by its crew after the mishap. (AP wirephoto).

## Japanese private investment to be boosted in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, March 16 (AFP). — Pakistani officials, during the week long stay of the Japanese economic mission lead by Chairman of Nippon Seiko Company Mr. Hiroki Imazoto arrived here today to discuss possibilities of greater private capital investment and expanded trade with Pakistan.

Although Japan and Pakistan have had traditional important economic relations, the Japanese private capital investment in Pakistan only totals approximately six thousand million dollars, spent on 14 different projects — a very low figure for a major industrial national which is a big investor overseas.

## \$30m loan extended by World Bank to Greece

ATHENS, Mar. 16, (R). — The World Bank has granted Greece a \$30 million long-term loan to help finance a road building project, Minister of Co-ordination and Planning Panayotis Papaligouras announced here today.

The loan will cover the entire foreign exchange part of the project whose total cost is estimated at the equivalent of \$64 million.

The loan, which carries an interest rate of 8.5 percent, will be repaid in 15 years after a five year grace period.

The project concerns the reconstruction of a national highway in the western Peloponnese and the purchase of \$12 million worth of mechanical equipment by the Ministry of Public Works for a more systematic maintenance of the country's road network.

Pakistan's imports from Japan amounted to \$35.95 million during the 1971-1972 fiscal year and rose to a record of \$176.74 million for the first nine months of the fiscal year starting in July 1975. Pakistan's exports to Japan, which amounted to \$54 million in 1971-1972, were only of \$48.8 million for the first nine months of the current fiscal year.

Regarding trade between Japan and Pakistan, the balance has always been in favour of Japan except between 1971 and 1973 when Japan purchased a considerable quantity of Pakistan's cotton and cotton products.

Pakistan's imports from Japan amounted to \$35.95 million during the 1971-1972 fiscal year and rose to a record of \$176.74 million for the first nine months of the fiscal year starting in July 1975. Pakistan's exports to Japan, which amounted to \$54 million in 1971-1972, were only of \$48.8 million for the first nine months of the current fiscal year.

To Pakistan, Japan exports mainly iron and copper products, cars, plastics goods, chemical products and synthetic fibres, while Pakistan exports to Japan, besides cotton and cotton products, a fairly large quantity of shrimps and semi-finished leaoyer.

## LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market moved lower over a broad front Tuesday following news that the Prime Minister had decided to resign.

Market sources noted nervous selling on fears of political upheaval coinciding with budget proposals and talks on the next round of wage limits. The decline was somewhat overdone and most issues were above the day's lows towards the close. At 15:00 hrs the F.T. Index was off 15.7 at 394.5.

Government bonds showed losses of 1/4 to one full point while leading issues fell up to 12p on balance.

Overseas issues generally firmed in response to the rise in the investment dollar premium to 108 pct from 105-3/4.

ICI, Glaxo, Bats, Thorn, Guest Keem, Hawker and Courtaulds closed with net falls ranging between 7p and 12p.

Trust Houses Forte weakened 14p after the 14 mln-rights issue news.

BP which reports fourth quarter results on Thursday was 3p off at 597-1/2 after a low of 592-1/2. Shell and Ultramar were both 6p down.

Banks were narrowly mixed and insurances lost up to 10p.

## Estimates raise world production of grain

LONDON, March 16 (AFP). — As a result of some significant revisions to production figures for a number of northern hemisphere countries, the Commonwealth Secretariat has today raised its estimate of 1975/76 world production of grains.

In its latest grain bulletin, the secretariat now puts production at 896 million tons or 1 per cent less than in 1974/75, against the 18 millions and 899 millions forecast respectively in January and December. Excluding the Soviet Union, world production of wheat is estimated to be almost 5 per cent higher than in 1974/75 and that of coarse grains (maize, barley, oats and rye) 7 per cent greater, while in the developing countries total production is reckoned to be 7 per cent higher.

Of the revisions to the earlier harvest estimates in the northern hemisphere, the most important was a 3 million tons increase to 140 million tons of the estimated grain output in the Soviet Union. Meanwhile, the estimate of Chinese harvests has also been raised 3 million tons and that of Canadian production of wheat, barley and maize by over 1 million tons.

On the other hand, the estimate of United States coarse grains production has been reduced by 1.5 million tons. In Europe, a downward revision of the French maize estimate has been offset by an upward revision to the maize estimate for Yugoslavia.

Following these revisions, the Secretariat puts 1975/76 world output of wheat at 355 millions tons or 1.5 per cent less than in 1974/75 and output of the four coarse grains at 541 millions tons or 0.7 per cent less, with a 9 per cent expansion in maize production (to 316 million tons) being offset by a fall

## \$572m contract signed for oil refinery between Nigeria, Italy

LAGOS, March 16 (AFP). — Nigeria yesterday signed a 40 million naira (about \$572 million) contract for the design and construction of the country's second oil refinery at Warri, in Bendel state, with the Italian Snamprogetti company.

Final agreement was reached last month after work on the site began in October. The signing was delayed by the abortive coup here on Feb. 13.

The refinery will handle a daily production of 100,000 barrels. It is due to be completed by mid-1978.

The agreement was signed by Federal Petroleum and Energy Commissioner (Minister) Mofia Akobo just prior to the Nigerian cabinet reshuffle late yesterday which moved him to the Ministry of Economic Development.

Snamprogetti is part of the Italian state oil company ENI.

## Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates at the close of the business day yesterday. The two figures denote buying and selling prices in Jordanian fils:

U.S. dollar :	331 - 333
U.K. sterling :	639 - 645
French franc :	71.5 - 71.8
Swiss franc :	128.7 - 129.1
German mark :	128.9 - 129.3
Iraqi dinar :	991.5 - 992.3
Kuwaiti dinar :	1112 - 1112.5
Saudi riyal :	93.3 - 93.7
Syrian pound :	84 - 84.3
Egyptian pound :	450 - 470
Lebanese pound :	131.9 - 133.3
UAE dirham :	83 - 83.5

of 12 per cent in the combined output of barley, oats and rye. Turning to 1976/77 prospects, the Secretariat says that a substantial increase in the total wheat area is indicated for the northern hemisphere. Prospects for wheat crops in western Europe are promising, but poor weather has hindered development of American crops. Prospects for the Indian wheat crops remain very good and production may even reach a new record.

## France's foreign trade improves

PARIS, Mar. 16, (R). — France today announced improved trade figures as foreign exchange conditions have remained uncertain in the wake of France's withdrawal from the joint European float.

France's trade deficit fell to a seasonally adjusted 242 million francs (£26.6 million) from January's 920 million francs (£100 million), the Foreign Trade Ministry announced.

Foreign Trade Minister Raymond Barre said the trade balance was approaching equilibrium as French Foreign Trade increased and the recovery in exports appeared to be growing.

But imports also continued to rise because of the increase in domestic production and heavier energy costs which he put at 1000 million francs (£111 million) higher than February last year.

The increase in the energy bill made up one third of the rise in total imports, he said. February imports totalled 21,690 million francs (£2,410 million) with exports bringing in 21,448 million francs (£2,383 million), the Ministry said.

## \$164.4m contract for B-1 nuclear bomber

WASHINGTON, Mar. 16, (R). — The air force today awarded two major contracts to Rockwell International Corporation aimed at a possible start later this year on production of the B-1 strategic bomber.

Rockwell International, prime contractor for the supersonic nuclear bomber, will receive \$164.4 million for advance materials and equipment needed in case a production decision is made in November.

The air force said tests on B-1 research models have been moving on and the programme is "under close scrutiny by Congress, where critics question whether the Pentagon needs to replace the B-52, its present strategic bomber.

Appearing today before the Senate Armed Services Committee, air force lieutenant-general Alton Slay, Deputy Chief of Staff for Research and Development, said tests on the B-1 would be completed well before the production contract award date.

Sowings of winter northern China are higher and the crop is developing satisfactorily concerning maize, the agency says that north American again plan to area under the crop western Europe the ing returns and the 1975/76 harvesting growers to be about their commitment 1976/77.

The outlook for uncertain and it whether the recovery area under this crop 76 will be sustained 77.

For barley, the arrier plantings that reported are up on the level and the available planting intentions the recent decline in barley area could this season.

On the other hand, tariat feels, that the prospect of a halt in the trend of rye but, with more normal eastern Europe and Union, there could be recovery in world output 77.

## \$50m loans Arab states ADFAED

ABU DHABI, Mar. — The Abu Dhabi Arab Economic Development Fund (ADFAED) approved Arab states totalling lion dirhams (£50 million) at the end of last year to the Fund's account shed here today.

But the account that only 11 million (1.4 million) had been withdrawn by borrowers.

Officials explained ADFAED, which acts as a development aid agency Dhabhi had only beenational for a short period.

They expected to increase dramatic projects financed by the under way in 1976.

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# Spring comes to the Valley

Photos by Bill Lyons  
the Jordan Times

It hasn't finished  
few blustery days  
surrounding fer-

lay now, hundreds  
minute drive to  
adi Shu'aib to en-

level climate.  
way one can stop  
th the road-side  
e taking advantage  
ndous selection of  
bles.

is a must.  
t or mish-mish tr-  
in full bloom—the-  
ssoms contrasting  
reshly plowed an-  
wn with summer

If you have a close-up lense  
there are uncountable varieties  
of wild flowers including the  
bright red poppies sold in bun-  
ches by kids along the road.

Picnic grounds are abundant;  
whether along one of the pere-  
nnial spring streams or in a fi-  
eld of wild flowers, there are  
numerous favorite spots to st-  
op for a relaxing meal.

Although still somewhat on  
the frigid side, there are also  
many fresh water-holes where  
the brave can take a quick  
ndous selection of swim.

After lunch and a swim one  
can relax to the piping of the  
shababeh flute and rhythm of  
the table drum as week-end mu-  
sicians show their talents to  
any who'll listen.

If you aren't blessed with the  
use of an auto, the services go-



Nature and curiosity: the stuff of adventure.

ing to Salt and Jordan Valley le-  
ave regularly, passing through  
these and other fine locales for  
an enjoyable afternoon.



Cool glades set the atmosphere for memories.



The "frizbee" comes to the valley.



Gaiety and minnow hunting: highlights of any picnic in the water-blessed wadis.

## Despite the Pharaoh curse legend Bootlegging antiquities goes on in Egypt

CAIRO, EGYPT (AP). — A have become professionals in  
the business."

A new village has been built  
for the 10,000 people of Karna  
but they have refused to leave  
their homes. Evacuation by for-  
ce is one option likely to be co-  
sidered, Fouad said.

The legend of the pharaohs'  
curse of death to those who  
disturb tombs goes unheeded by  
foreigners as well, increasing  
the problem for police who al-  
ready find it difficult to track  
down native looters and boot-  
leggers.

Some do the job under cover  
of foreign diggings welcomed  
by the government because of  
its own inadequate resources.  
Most of the sites have been un-  
touched officially.

Others get away with the  
help of foreign diplomats who  
take advantage of their diplo-  
matic immunity to carry out  
pottery, sculpture, and jewelry,  
authorities say.

Among the most famous anti-  
quities believed to have been  
smuggled out of Egypt is the go-  
lden stick of Tutankhamen which  
disappeared some 15 years  
ago. The stick was removed  
and a false one put in its place.

It is believed the original rod  
is now somewhere in Paris.

The list of stolen objects, in-  
cluding portraits ripped off tem-  
ple walls, runs into thousands,  
and authorities believe that gu-  
ards on the site and excava-  
tion supervisors have a hand in  
the robberies.

"Younger supervisors," said  
one antiquity inspector, "make  
deals with foreign diggers.  
They help them take away ob-  
jects in return for work con-  
tracts or money."

He thinks the government  
should be more careful in selec-  
ting its people and give more  
thought to the system of incen-  
tives.

Local authorities are now m-  
eeting with Interpol to find  
better ways of guarding old tre-  
asures.

They face a network of de-  
alers, middlemen, smugglers  
and moonlighting peasants.

"It's a tough job," they said.  
In the meantime, "we're keep-  
ing a close watch over million-  
aires and foreign private collec-  
tors entering and leaving the  
country."

## Light's TV Features

**THE SHADOW OF THE TOWER**  
**THE MAN WHO NEVER WAS**  
Warbeck, married to the cousin of the King  
and James IV is an embarrassment to James who  
ressure both from Henry and from the Spanish  
xpel the pretender, who is rightfully Richard IV  
He raises an army and faces Henry.

**THE LUCY SHOW**  
**LUCY TAKES UP GOLF**  
press her prince charming who happens to like  
gets into a golf club, participates with her beau  
atch and wins in spite of her clumsiness.

**KOJAC**  
**THE FRAME**  
ed of receiving bribes from a gangster, Kojac  
elf in a very difficult position to deny such alle-

**OP SECRET LIFE OF INSPECTOR BRIGGS**  
**THE CONTACT**  
and his men go after a suspected KGB man  
finally arrest him at Waterloo station.

### Television

3 & 6:	CHANNEL 6:
Quran	7.30 News in Hebrew
Walt Disney	7.45 Varieties
The Lucy show	8.30 Inspector Briggs
News in Arabic	9.10 The shadow of the tower
3:	10.00 News in English
Sports programme	10.15 Kojac (on both chan-
Arabic series	nels)
Panel discussion on	
information	

### Amman Airport

URES:	ARRIVALS:
Aqaba	8.20 Muscat, Doha
Beirut	8.30 Aqaba
Beirut (MEA)	9.15 Jeddah
Athens, Amsterdam	9.30 Bucharest (Taroom)
(KLM)	9.30 Beirut
Bucharest (Taroom)	17.20 Muscat, Bahrain, Abu
London	Dhabi (GA)
Cairo (EA)	17.30 Cairo (EA)
Bahrain, Abu Dhabi,	17.30 Casablanca, Madrid,
Muscat (GA)	Athens
Kuwait, Teheran	17.35 Amsterdam, Brussels,
Abu Dhabi, Dubai	Geneva
Baghdad (IA)	18.30 Beirut (MEA)
	18.45 Baghdad (IA)

### Radio

(ON 856 KHZ)
7.00 Breakfast show
7.30 News Bulletin
7.45 Morning melodies
8.00 Sign off
12.00 Pop session (part I)
13.00 News Summary
13.03 Pop session (part II)
14.00 News Bulletin
14.10 Radio Magazine
14.30 Melody Time
15.00 Classical music
15.30 Light Instrumentals
16.00 Old Favourites
16.30 Easy Listening
17.00 Music
18.00 News Summary
18.05 Listener's Choice
18.30 Science Report
19.00 News Bulletin
19.10 News Reports
19.30 Sign off

### Market Price

Apples (Golden): 140-180	Oranges: 80-110
Apples (Starken): 140-180	Onions (dry): 150-190
Apples (Double red): 200-240	Onions (green): 200-240
Bell pepper: 300-400	Potatoes (local): 80-110
Bananas: 150-190	Potatoes (Egyptian): 80-110
Cabbage (foreign): 50-65	Peas: 160-200
Cabbage (local): 40-60	Spinach: 40-65
Cauliflower: 40-60	String beans: 220-280
Carrots (yellow): 40-60	Tangerines: 70-100
Cucumbers (small): 140-180	Tomatoes: 65-85
Cucumbers (large): 70-100	
Eggplant (large): 120-170	
Eggplant (small): 80-120	
Grapefruit: 40-55	
Green walnut (dry): 240-300	
Green walnut (Syr.): 300-340	
Green walnut (local): 220-280	
Garlic (dry): 40-60	
Garlic (green): 50-75	
Lettuce (large): 60-80	
Lettuce (small): 30-50	
Lemon: 70-100	
Horsebeans: 200-240	
Hot pepper: 400-550	
Marrow (small): 120-160	
Marrow (large): 70-100	

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## Soviet oil deal breaks down Kissinger develops qualms about success of Salt-2

WASHINGTON, Mar. 16 (AFP). — He was referring to the committee on energy, which was scheduled to meet at the end of this month, the committee on habitat, due to meet next spring, and the trade committee, for which no meeting date had been set.

The conclusion of a second SALT agreement on nuclear weapons was "possible," and his problems were "soluble," he stated in a written text prepared for his appearance before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today.

But he omitted to mention that to the senators, and failed to predict any date for reaching a SALT-2 agreement with Moscow.

A short time ago he was expressing hope that an agreement could be signed before summer.

Mr. Kissinger's discretion, following President Gerald Ford's reservations on that subject a few days ago, strengthened the impression that a nuclear bargain was less and less likely to be struck with Moscow before the U.S. presidential election in November.

Mr. Kissinger was called before the committee today for one of its hearings on "Choices in Foreign Policy in the Decades 70 and 80."

He said the "Three challenges of our third century" were strengthening unity among industrial democracies, maintaining peace and the balance of forces, and forging a world community satisfying aspirations of developing countries.

There is "no higher priority" than "sustaining the vitality of democracy and the unity of democracies."

He stressed that local wars were dangerous, the Middle East conflict above all.

In a related development, a State Department spokesman said today that meetings of three joint Soviet-U.S. economic committees have been deferred to sanction the Soviet Union for its intervention in Angola.

"Actions such as those of the Soviet Union in Angola have their penalties, their fallouts," spokesman Robert Funseth said.

"Therefore, we decided not to proceed with the meetings of these three joint bodies."

## Arab League condemns Israel

(Continued from page 1) Three delegates were represented by other senior officials.

The political committee reviewed progress of industrial, economic and technical cooperation between the 20-League member states and the European Common Market (EEC).

All members are reported to have underlined the importance of Arab-EEC cooperation.

League spokesman Mr. Abu al-Akbar said the ministers also discussed the question of the eighth Arab Summit. Mr. Riad al-Sayid said next April 19 as the date for the Summit which was originally scheduled to be held in Somalia last year but postponed.

He was referring to the committee on energy, which was scheduled to meet at the end of this month, the committee on habitat, due to meet next spring, and the trade committee, for which no meeting date had been set.

The month-old negotiations for American purchase of Soviet oil were also adjourned because of disagreement over shipping costs to the United States, the State Department announced today.

The adjournment was agreed on jointly and was unrelated to differences in other fields, Mr. Funseth said. The oil talks might resume "in the near future," he said.

The dispute is over freight rates and for several weeks now there has been no sign of serious effort at negotiation on the part of the Russians, U.S. officials said.

Russian officials were unavailable for comment.

The breakdown in the talks halted negotiations on the contemplated sale of up to 10 million metric tons a year — equivalent to 200,000 barrels a day — of Soviet crude oil to the United States.

A letter of intent to purchase Soviet oil was signed last October in conjunction with the U.S.-Soviet grain agreement.

But negotiators have been stalled over freight rates to be charged by U.S. - flag tankers carrying grain and oil.

U.S. officials said the halt in the oil negotiations was unrelated to a U.S. decision to delay meetings of three joint U.S.-Soviet commissions as a sign of displeasure to the Kremlin.

A Soviet-American commission on energy cooperation was to have begun meeting in Moscow yesterday, but the United States notified the Russians a week ago that further preparation would be required.

## Israeli police use tear gas

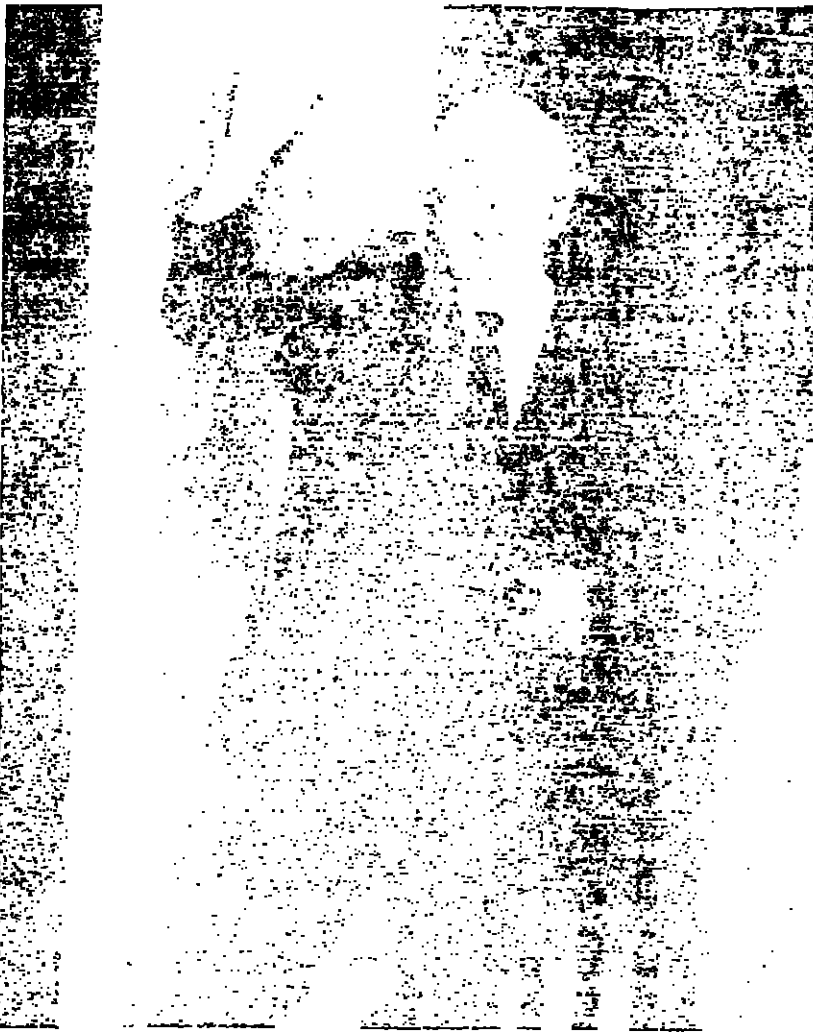
(Continued from page 1) The three Arab leaders to his offices called on them to help restore peace and quiet.

Participating in the meeting were the Mayor of Nablus, Mr. Mazouz Al-Masri, the Mayor of Hebron, Sheikh Mohammed Ali Jaabari, and the Mayor of Bethlehem, Mr. Elias Freij.

Mr. Peres told them: "Israel will not countenance serious disturbances in the areas and will take all necessary steps to prevent them."

He also said municipal elections scheduled for April 12 will be held as planned. Some observers here have said the wave of disturbances in the West Bank have upset election plans. The mayors of five Arab towns, including Mr. Al-Masri, have already said they would not stand for re-election.

Mr. Al-Masri, who resigned together with the mayors of several towns last week, said Mr. Peres told him that if he did not resume office, he and his colleagues must bear the responsibility for any measures taken by the Israeli military government to keep order.



FARE THEE WELL. — Britain's Prime Minister Harold Wilson waves to crowds Tuesday after announcing his resignation, to take place as soon as a successor is chosen. (AP wirephoto).

## Kreisky ends Kuwait visit, arrives in Baghdad

KUWAIT, March 16, (R). — Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky arrived in Baghdad tonight on the second leg of a fact-finding mission on behalf of the Socialist International.

Earlier today, the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, met the mission from the Socialist International led by the Austrian Chancellor.

The mission arrived in Kuwait today at the start of the third Socialist International mission to the Middle East since the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

Dr. Kreisky and his six-member team from Italy, France, Sweden and West Germany later had a two-hour meeting with a Kuwaiti delegation led by the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Abdel-Aziz Hussein said after the meeting that the European socialists had outlined their views of the best ways to achieve a just settlement in the Middle East.

## Smith: no to majority rule now in Rhodesia

LONDON, March 16, (AFP). — There can be no settlement in Rhodesia as long as Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Salisbury-based faction of the African National Council (ANC), keeps insisting on majority rule now, Prime Minister Ian Smith said in an interview in today's Financial Times.

He told the daily's Africa correspondent, Bridget Bloom, that there was "still a fairly sizeable gap" between his government and the ANC.

This did not mean that the current talks—due to resume on Wednesday—would not continue. Nor did it mean that the gap could not be dramatically closed as the talks neared conclusion, Mr. Smith said.

Asked whether Mr. Nkomo would have to change his position on majority rule to permit such a dramatic bridging of the gap, Mr. Smith replied: "If he doesn't, then there will be no settlement with Mr. Nkomo."

## Wilson rocks Britain with resignation

(Continued from page 1) Buckingham Palace and told Queen Elizabeth he will go as soon as the Labour Party finds a successor.

British bookmakers quickly made Foreign Secretary James Callaghan odds-on favourite to succeed Harold Wilson as Prime Minister.

Bookies offered Callaghan odds of 4 to 5, with Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey second favourite at 7 to 4 against.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary Labour group today met to fix a calendar for the succession elections.

Despite an obvious wish by Labour Party leaders to see the present uncertainty ended as

## Wilson resignation adds further chaos European exchanges; pound slips again

PARIS, March 16 (AFP). — Sterling hit new lows against the Deutsche mark and the Swiss franc and needed support by the Bank of England to the tune of \$100 million to prevent it sliding further against the dollar.

The pound's plunge after Mr. Wilson's shock announcement put renewed pressure on the French franc — though it had continued sinking another two per cent against the dollar.

As the turmoil continued in foreign exchange, the 1 franc and the Danish crown came the next victims.

Frankfurt dealers said the German Bundesbank had 1,000 million marks (\$360 million) to support the two currencies over the past two half of it today.

In London, news of Mr. Wilson's dramatic decision came a moment of panic on the stock market, prompting the centre to intervene. But although the pound was down against the dollar — it fared fairly well against the yen — a depreciation rate rising to 10 per cent.

It closed in London at 162.5 Deutsche marks.

After recovering in the morning it dipped to an all-time low of 161.5 Swiss francs, but later closed at 161.5, still a shade weaker than London tonight at 161.5.

Against the dollar, the pound closed at 1.9125 just after Mr. Wilson's announcement. Last night's rate was 1.9125.

The Italian lira today meted to a new all-time high when it was fixed at 842 lire to the dollar on the Milan foreign exchange market. Dealers said this meant an effective devaluation of the Italian lire by 22 per cent.

This morning the lira traded at a rate of 829.5 lire to the dollar after closing at 827 yesterday.

Observers said the withdrawal of the Alexandria facilities would have little or no strategic significance because the Soviet fleet also enjoys the use of Algiers and the Libyan port of Tobruk.

But an Egyptian ban might create short-term supply and logistics problems for the Russians.

Cancellation of the treaty drew an angry reaction from the Soviet Union, which has poured more money and arms into Egypt than into any other non-communist country.

The official Soviet news agency Tass said last night that Mr. Sadat's action was another manifestation of his unfriendly policy towards the Soviet Union. It added that the Egyptian leadership would be responsible for the consequences.

The Syrian leader was to have arrived in the French capital yesterday for a three-day state visit, the first by a Syrian president to a Western country.

They emphasised that no decision on the withdrawal of naval facilities now granted to the Russians had yet been made, but said such a step was likely, logical, and expected to be taken soon.

The 15-year friendship treaty was cancelled yesterday, on grounds of Soviet failure to supply weapons and military spares.

A big Soviet naval base at the Mediterranean port of Mersa Matruh was closed after the expulsion of some 20,000 Soviet military advisers in 1972 — but the Kremlin's warships continued bunkering at Alexandria, 290 kilometres to the west, where there are also Soviet-run maintenance and repair shops.

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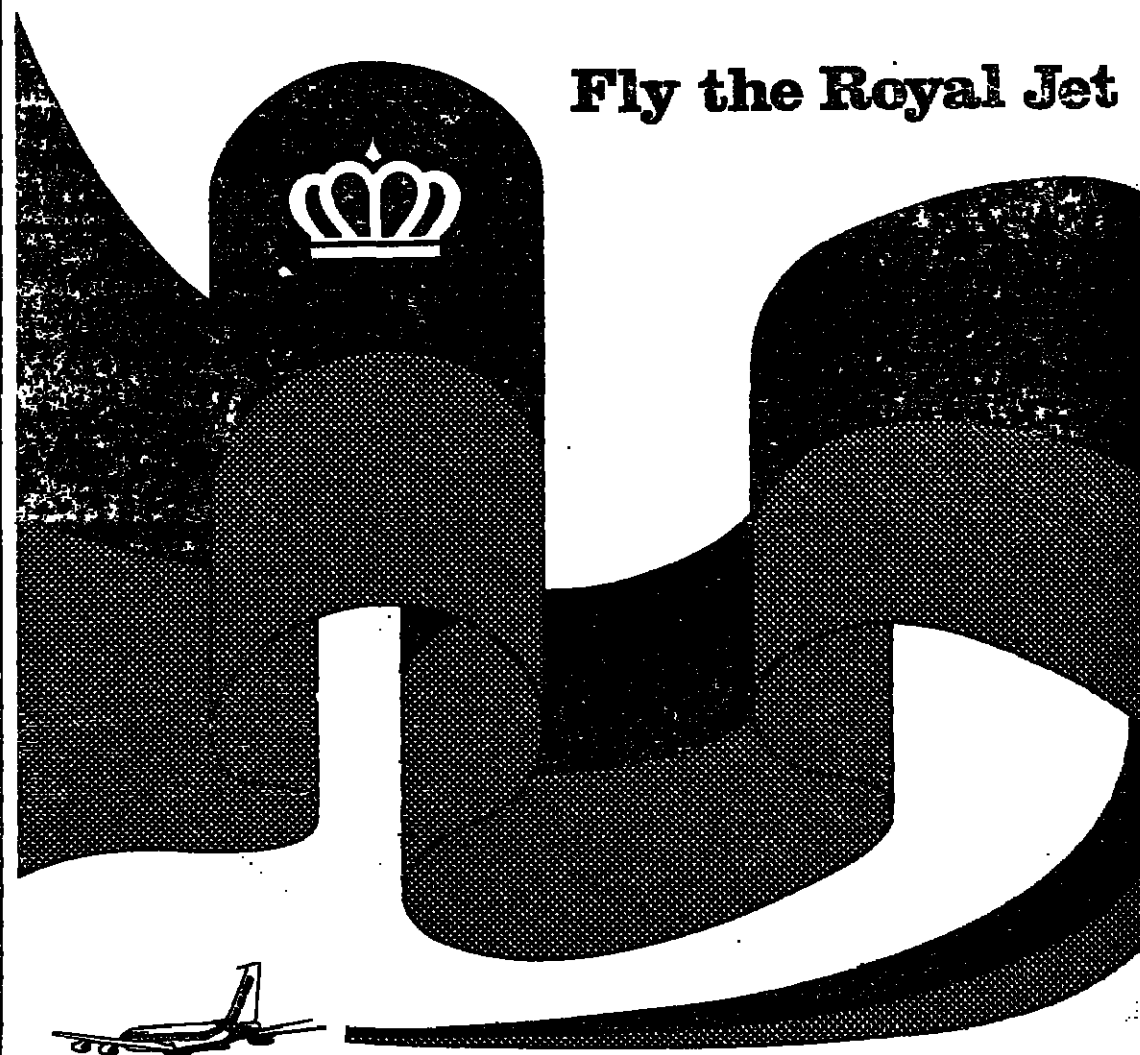
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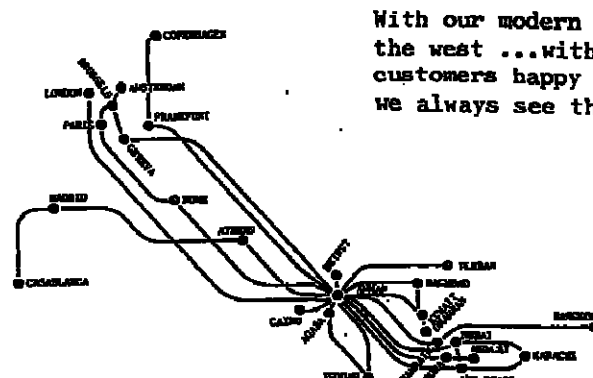
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